

HELPING MY TOWNS & CITIES

Aid For Our Towns

State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That's why I fought hard to protect funding for Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck and Woodbridge.	Fiscal Year 10-11
	Total Education Grants
	\$83,379,217
	Town Aid Road Fund Grant
	\$1,155,997
	Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant
	\$1,552,053
	Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)
	\$1,068,813
	Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)
	\$4,095,203
	Total State Funds to the 17th Senate District
	\$91,251,282

This table shows the state grants and reimbursements for our district in Fiscal Year 2010–2011.

Firefighter Training Funds Saved



I was successful in obtaining funding for the volunteer firefighter training and certification program, which had been threatened with devastating cuts. Now, towns will continue to be reimbursed for a portion of the costs incurred when volunteers complete their training.

EDUCATION

Adequate Resources for Vo-Tech Schools:

Students at **Eli Whitney** in Hamden and **Emmett O’Brien** in Ansonia as well as other Connecticut vo-tech schools have endured understaffing, shortages of classroom and shop supplies, inefficient transportation and no budgetary oversight. Legislation we passed ensures that vo-tech schools have adequate resources to allow for the development of a well-trained, highly qualified, experienced workforce.



Hearing from Acting Principal Laurie LeBouthillier of Emmett O'Brien Technical High School in Ansonia.



At Laurel Ledge School in Beacon Falls with First Selectman Susan Cable and teachers and students from kindergarten and first grade.

“Race to the Top”

We approved a landmark education bill that will give Connecticut a better chance to secure funding through the Obama Administration’s \$4 billion Race to the Top program. These funds will help Connecticut close the achievement gap and ensure that our graduates can compete in the global economy.



Dear Neighbor,

The many calls and e-mails I received during this session conveyed an urgent message—that state government must focus on growing jobs and balancing the budget without raising taxes.

This newsletter describes our successful efforts in working with Governor Rell to respond to these concerns. It also presents information about legislation we passed to expand health care coverage, address the burden on local taxpayers and help Connecticut schools.

If you would like to discuss this information further or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you as Connecticut continues on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,

Joe Crisco
State Senator

Stay Informed in a “Green” Way

Sign-up to receive my e-mail newsletter. It's a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit:
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State Senator
Joe Crisco

Legislative Office Building, Room 2800, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
www.SenatorCrisco.cga.ct.gov
Crisco@senatedems.ct.gov
1-800-842-1420

I’m proud to represent the citizens of
Ansonia,
Beacon Falls,
Bethany,
Derby,
Hamden,
Naugatuck
& Woodbridge

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SUMMER 2010

HEALTH CARE

As co-chairman of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I worked for passage of the following legislation:

Ensuring Cancer Patients Get the Care They Need

Oral doses of chemotherapy are now available to patients to help fight cancer. But, because these new medications can be very expensive, some insurance companies have been unwilling to fully cover the costs, although most companies fully cover the cost of chemotherapy administered intravenously. This new law requires parity for the two strategies.



Helping Patients Get Answers When Coverage is Denied

Now, when health insurance companies deny coverage for procedures they claim are “not medically necessary” or “not a covered benefit,” they must refer patients to the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, where staff will help patients determine if they have been wrongfully denied coverage and will take appropriate action.

Expanding the Bio-Medical Research Fund

Alzheimer’s and diabetes are two debilitating conditions that can devastate not only the afflicted individuals, but also their families. That is why I worked to expand grants from the Bio-Medical Research Fund to research into causes and cures for Alzheimer’s and diabetes.

HELPING SENIORS

We passed several laws this session that help seniors by:

- ▶ Reducing the 15 percent co-pay on the Home Care Program for Elders to 6 percent, saving the average client nearly \$100 per month in co-pays.
- ▶ Reopening the Alzheimer’s Respite Care Program to provide respite services for caregivers.
- ▶ Protecting the privacy of seniors who participate in senior center programs by exempting personal information from the Freedom of Information laws. Names, phone numbers and addresses will no longer be available to the public, and more importantly, scam artists.



GROWING JOBS

Landmark Jobs Bill

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping Connecticut create high-quality jobs. We worked with Governor Rell to do just that. Provisions of the new law include:

- ▶ Loans for small businesses to help fund expansions and additional hires
- ▶ Sales-tax exemptions for machinery and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and grants for education and careers in green technology and health information technology
- ▶ Tax credits for angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green businesses



Developing Nursing Opportunities

We authorized the Connecticut University System to award doctoral degrees in nursing, thereby helping to develop our nursing workforce.

Working Together to Balance the Budget

The 2010 legislative session began with the state facing a projected deficit of more than \$1.2 billion for the current two-year budget. Despite the daunting task of closing the deficit, we were able to work together in a bipartisan fashion with the governor to balance the budget. We did it without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we cut state spending by hundreds of millions of dollars, reduced borrowing and worked hard to maximize federal funding.



The Fight Against Domestic Violence

The General Assembly took action by passing a package of bills that will help protect victims, prevent future abuse and increase public awareness.

- ▶ **Judicial and Criminal Justice Systems**—Enforcement of protective orders will improve; a pilot program for electronic monitoring of the highest risk offenders will be implemented; and additional domestic violence court dockets will be created.
- ▶ **Housing and Human Services Changes**—The process for survivors of domestic violence who need to terminate their lease will be less burdensome.
- ▶ **Education Changes**—Teen dating and domestic violence education will be added to education staff training programs.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

JOBS: WHERE TO TURN WHEN UNEMPLOYED

- ▶ The United Way has produced “Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed.” It contains information regarding unemployment insurance, medical benefits, legal assistance and help with job searches and money management. Contact my office at 1-800-842-1420 to receive a copy of this publication or visit www.senatedems.ct.gov/Jobs.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE & CONSERVATION

- ▶ Choose your electric supplier and save. 1-888-922-3782
- ▶ State sales-tax exemptions are in affect for energy-efficient products including insulation, caulking, doors, windows, water heaters, fluorescent light bulbs, furnaces, geothermal heat pumps, programmable thermostats and water heaters.
- ▶ Programs are available to help electric customers reduce or eliminate their past-due balance if they pay an agreed-upon amount each month. CL&P customers: 1-800-286-2828; UI customers: 1-800-722-5584
- ▶ The Weatherization Residential Assistance Partnership helps income-eligible customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. 1-800-388-9727



FORECLOSURE MEDIATION

- ▶ We extended the Judicial Branch’s foreclosure mediation program that aims to keep homeowners in their homes. www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure



OUTDOOR RECREATION FEES REDUCED

- ▶ We reduced camping and park entrance fees by more than 32 percent. Resident fishing licenses were also reduced from \$40 to \$28 and resident firearms hunting licenses were reduced from \$28 to \$19. We also approved rebates for anyone who purchased a license between October 1, 2009 and April 14, 2010 before the price cut was enacted.

OTHER RESOURCES AND LINKS

Find more helpful resources for jobseekers, veterans, those facing foreclosure and more. www.senatedems.ct.gov

